

**Letters**

Dear Editor

The present police scandal in Torrance has been heightened by the city council's failure to properly carry out investigative powers given them by the Torrance City Charter.

Article IX, section 8, of the City Charter titled, "Council Proceedings," in part reads as follows:

"It (the council) shall have the power and authority to examine witnesses under oath and compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of evidence before it by subpoena. Such subpoenas shall be served by the chief of police and the disobedience of such subpoenas, or the refusal to testify, shall constitute a misdemeanor for which prosecution may be had in the city court."

When the charge was first made that the police department of Torrance was not being properly supervised, why didn't the city council investigate at that time? It would have been a simple matter for them to call witnesses from the police department and wherever else it was necessary to find out what the facts were and dispose of the matter. If the chief of police was attending to his duties they owed it to him to show that he was, if the chief of police was not attending to his duties they owed it to the public to show that he was not and to determine what he was doing.

The city council has had two months in which to do something. However, the city council has not taken one step to inform themselves or the public of the true facts. The city council has always been very vocal in demanding that local government should be allowed to function without interference from outside agencies. Yet the local government, instead of exercising powers that they have, are yelling like wounded buffaloes for Attorney General Mosk to step in and save them from what they term is an unfair attack.

The right of a legislative body to hold investigations is one of the cornerstones of our system of government. Why doesn't the city council use the powers they have to hold an investigation and determine for themselves what the facts are? The city council might be surprised what they would find out if they would only exercise their investigative powers.

David K. Lyman

Dear Editor:

The people of Torrance have a problem. Their school system cannot continue at its present level without more adequate financing.

Seven hundred more high school students each year do not come into the schools without adding costs for books, teachers, and classrooms. A thousand more elementary students per year are expensive. If the school system expects to just maintain the pace, retain its holding power for experienced teachers, keep its ability to recruit new teachers, and keep itself out of the position of taking left-overs, more funds must be provided. The added numbers enrolled in science and vocational programs each year are increasing costs. The high ratio of children to adults makes Torrance's problem one of the most difficult.

The cost of just keeping up is increasing annually for many reasons. Inflation is a factor; maintaining the salary schedule is a factor; new and mandated programs in special education are factors. All these things, plus new houses, new apartments, and increased population requiring new schools, expansion of existing schools, and hiring of new teachers to put in the new classrooms to teach the new children brought in by the new population add to the budget every year. Also, the

stork brings its share annually.

It's too easy to take the job your school board does for granted. But this time the citizens have a problem—which is to help the board find the funds to maintain the pace. The board has by law only one way to turn that is to the property tax. This means the only solution the law provides for this problem is a revenue tax for operating costs.

It is hoped that interested citizens will contact the people responsible for school policy and ask questions about this problem.

As yet, the board has not agreed upon an answer or a solution to the problem.

Yours very truly,  
J. H. Hull

**March of Dimes Panel Discusses "Special Child"**

South Bay residents will hear a panel discussion on "The Special Child" at an educational meeting sponsored by the March of Dimes Sept. 23 at the Hacienda, 301 S. Western Ave., San Pedro.

The noon luncheon meeting is one of a series scheduled throughout Los Angeles County by various community organizations and the March of Dimes to acquaint citizens with the new March of Dimes program in the field of birth defects and arthritis.

Serving on the panel will be Dr. Virgil Hanson of Children's Hospital; Mrs. Edward T. Walker, past president of the California Congress of Parents and Teachers, and the Rt. Rev. Msgr. George M. Scott, pastor of St. Mary Star of the Sea Church in San Pedro.

The meeting will be under the direction of March of Dimes 1964 community chairmen, including Clark Mills, Gardena; D. J. Comparsi, San Pedro, and Mmes. Bernice Murphy, Wilmington; Clara A. Conner, Torrance and Robert Lawhead Jr., Palos Verdes.

**Evening Photo Class Begins**

With the increasing interest in photography as the world's leading hobby, the Torrance Adult Education program is extending with a new evening class in photography beginning Sept. 19 at North High School.

The class will meet on Thursday nights from 7:30 until 9:30 in room 109 and those interested in taking the course may register the first night of class.

Conducting the course will be Cliff Brown, photographic director for Marineland of the Pacific. Brown's background includes work for many publications both here and abroad, and a number of years as a newspaper photographer for the Los Angeles Mirror and the Herald-Express.

The first semester will stress basic black and white and color photography with special attention to the operation of your camera and learning how to determine the exposure for various situations, together with composition and films.

Home movie fans are also invited to attend.

It is hoped that by February — interest will be aroused for going on to more advanced work. This will include contest, special efforts, and a visit to the color laboratory at Columbia Studios.

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**IN THE SERVICE**

Donald R. Boswell, airman, USN, brother of Mrs. Niel Hopler of 21633 Redbeam Ave., Torrance, is serving aboard the aircraft carrier USS Hancock, a Pacific Fleet unit which is currently on six-months deployment with the Seventh Fleet in the Far East.

The Hancock departed her homeport, Alameda Calif., June 7. Her cruise with the Seventh Fleet includes drills with the fleetwide operational readiness inspection. This phase of training is conducted under simulated wartime conditions and shows the Hancock's operational capabilities.

at the numerous pineapple canneries, greenhouses and scenic areas of the island.

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, is the Hancock's first port-of-call on the cruise. Her crewmen will be able to see the memorial of the sunken World War II battleship USS Arizona, lost when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. In addition, Hawaii offers sightseeing and recreation at Waikiki Beach, and

Jerry L. Velek, airman apprentice, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Celek of 714 Border Ave., Torrance, recently reported for duty at the Naval Air Station, North Island, San Diego, Calif. The air station's principal mission is providing aviation support for operating units of the Pacific Fleet.

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